

Data Protection Policy



INFINITE
SCHOOLS

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1. Aims

For the purposes of this Policy “Infinite schools” means both Infinite schools-Alternative Provision and Infinite schools Primary School Education Provision.

Infinite schools aims to ensure that all personal data collected about staff, pupils, parents, management committee, visitors and other individuals is collected, stored and processed in accordance with the [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#) and the expected provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018)

This policy applies to all personal data, regardless of whether it is in paper or electronic format.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the GDPR and DPA 2018. It is based on guidance published by the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) on the [GDPR](#) and the ICO’s [code of practice for subject access requests](#).

It also reflects the ICO’s [code of practice](#) for the use of surveillance cameras and personal information.

In addition, this policy complies with regulation 5 of the [Education \(Pupil Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2005](#), which gives parents the right of access to their child’s educational record.

In addition, this policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Definitions

Term	Definition
Personal data	<p>Any information relating to an identified, or identifiable, individual.</p> <p>This may include the individual’s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name (including initials)• Identification number• Location data• Online identifier, such as a username <p>It may also include factors specific to the individual’s physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity.</p>
Special categories of personal data	<p>Personal data which is more sensitive and so needs more protection, including information about an individual’s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Racial or ethnic origin• Political opinions• Religious or philosophical beliefs• Trade union membership• Genetics• Biometrics (such as fingerprints, retina and iris patterns), where used for identification purposes• Health – physical or mental• Sex life or sexual orientation
Processing	<p>Anything done to personal data, such as collecting, recording, organising, structuring, storing, adapting, altering, retrieving, using, disseminating, erasing or destroying.</p>

	Processing can be automated or manual.
Data subject	The identified or identifiable individual whose personal data is held or processed.
Data controller	A person or organisation that determines the purposes and the means of processing of personal data.
Data processor	A person or other body, other than an employee of the data controller, who processes personal data on behalf of the data controller.
Personal data breach	A breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to personal data.

4. The data controller

Infinite schools processes personal data relating to parents, pupils, staff, management committee, visitors and others, and therefore is a data controller.

The school is registered as a data controller with the ICO and will renew this registration annually or as otherwise legally required.

5. Roles and responsibilities

This policy applies to **all staff** employed by Infinite schools, and to external organisations or individuals working on our behalf. Staff who do not comply with this policy may face disciplinary action.

5.1 Governing board/Management Committee

The governing board/Management Committee has overall responsibility for ensuring that Infinite schools complies with all relevant data protection obligations.

5.2 Data protection officer

The data protection officer (DPO) is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy, monitoring our compliance with data protection law, and developing related policies and guidelines where applicable.

They will provide an annual report of their activities directly to the management committee and, where relevant, report to the board their advice and recommendations on school data protection issues.

The DPO is also the first point of contact for individuals whose data the school processes, and for the ICO.

Full details of the DPO's responsibilities are set out in their job description.

Our DPO is Judicium Education dataservices@judicium.com

5.3 Headteacher

The executive headteacher and headteacher acts as representatives of the data controller on a day-to-day basis.

5.4 All staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Collecting, storing and processing any personal data in accordance with this policy
- Informing the school of any changes to their personal data, such as a change of address

- Contacting the DPO in the following circumstances:
 - With any questions about the operation of this policy, data protection law, retaining personal data or keeping personal data secure
 - If they have any concerns that this policy is not being followed
 - If they are unsure whether or not they have a lawful basis to use personal data in a particular way
 - If they need to rely on or capture consent, draft a privacy notice, deal with data protection rights invoked by an individual, or transfer personal data outside the European Economic Area
 - If there has been a data breach
 - Whenever they are engaging in a new activity that may affect the privacy rights of individuals
 - If they need help with any contracts or sharing personal data with third parties

6. Data protection principles

The GDPR is based on data protection principles that our school must comply with.

The principles say that personal data must be:

- Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes
- Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary to fulfil the purposes for which it is processed
- Accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- Kept for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which it is processed
- Processed in a way that ensures it is appropriately secure

This policy sets out how the school aims to comply with these principles.

7. Collecting personal data

7.1 Lawfulness, fairness and transparency

We will only process personal data where we have one of 6 'lawful bases' (legal reasons) to do so under data protection law:

- The data needs to be processed so that the school can **fulfil a contract** with the individual, or the individual has asked the school to take specific steps before entering into a contract
- The data needs to be processed so that the school can **comply with a legal obligation**
- The data needs to be processed to ensure the **vital interests** of the individual e.g. to protect someone's life
- The data needs to be processed so that the school, as a public authority, can perform a task **in the public interest**, and carry out its official functions
- The data needs to be processed for the **legitimate interests** of the school or a third party (provided the individual's rights and freedoms are not overridden)
- The individual (or their parent/carers when appropriate in the case of a pupil) has freely given clear **consent**

For special categories of personal data, we will also meet one of the special category conditions for processing which are set out in the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

If we offer online services to pupils, such as classroom apps, and we intend to rely on consent as a basis for processing, we will get parental consent where the pupil is under 13 (except for online counselling and preventive services).

Whenever we first collect personal data directly from individuals, we will provide them with the relevant information required by data protection law.

7.2 Limitation, minimisation and accuracy

We will only collect personal data for specified, explicit and legitimate reasons. We will explain these reasons to the individuals when we first collect their data.

If we want to use personal data for reasons other than those given when we first obtained it, we will inform the individuals concerned before we do so and seek consent where necessary.

Staff must only process personal data where it is necessary in order to do their jobs.

When staff no longer need the personal data they hold, they must ensure it is deleted or anonymised. This will be done in accordance with the school's record's management policy and retention schedule.

8. Sharing personal data

We will not normally share personal data with anyone else, but may do so where:

- Where the disclosure is required to satisfy our statutory or contractual obligations
- There is an issue with a pupil or parent/carer that puts the safety of our staff at risk
- We need to liaise with other agencies – we will seek consent where necessary before doing this
- Our suppliers or contractors need data to enable us to provide services to our staff and pupils – for example, IT companies. When doing this, we will:
 - Only appoint suppliers or contractors which can provide sufficient guarantees that they comply with data protection law
 - Establish a data sharing agreement with the supplier or contractor, either in the contract or as a standalone agreement, to ensure the fair and lawful processing of any personal data we share
 - Only share data that the supplier or contractor needs to carry out their service, and information necessary to keep them safe while working with us

We will also share personal data with law enforcement and government bodies where we are legally required to do so, including:

- For the prevention or detection of crime and/or fraud
- For the apprehension or prosecution of offenders
- For the assessment or collection of tax owed to HMRC
- In connection with legal proceedings
- Where the disclosure is required to satisfy our safeguarding obligations
- Research and statistical purposes, as long as personal data is sufficiently anonymised or consent has been provided

We may also share personal data with emergency services and local authorities to help them to respond to an emergency situation that affects any of our pupils or staff.

Where we transfer personal data to a country or territory outside the European Economic Area, we will do so in accordance with data protection law.

9. Subject access requests and other rights of individuals

9.1 Subject access requests

Individuals have a right to make a 'subject access request' to gain access to personal information that the school holds about them. This includes:

- Confirmation that their personal data is being processed
- Access to a copy of the data
- The purposes of the data processing
- The categories of personal data concerned

- Who the data has been, or will be, shared with
- How long the data will be stored for, or if this isn't possible, the criteria used to determine this period
- The source of the data, if not the individual
- Whether any automated decision-making is being applied to their data, and what the significance and consequences of this might be for the individual

Subject access requests should include:

- Name of individual
- Correspondence address
- Contact number and email address
- Details of the information requested

If staff receive a subject access request they must immediately forward it to the DPO.

9.2 Children and subject access requests

Personal data about a child belongs to that child, and not the child's parents or carers. For a parent or carer to make a subject access request with respect to their child, the child must either be unable to understand their rights and the implications of a subject access request, or have given their consent.

Children below the age of 12 are generally not regarded to be mature enough to understand their rights and the implications of a subject access request. Therefore, most subject access requests from parents or carers of pupils at our school may be granted without the express permission of the pupil. This is not a rule and a pupil's ability to understand their rights will always be judged on a case-by-case basis.

Children aged 12 and above are generally regarded to be mature enough to understand their rights and the implications of a subject access request. Therefore, most subject access requests from parents or carers of pupils at our school may not be granted without the express permission of the pupil. This is not a rule and a pupil's ability to understand their rights will always be judged on a case-by-case basis.

9.3 Responding to subject access requests

When responding to requests, we:

- May ask the individual to provide 2 forms of identification
- May contact the individual via phone to confirm the request was made
- Will respond without delay and within 1 month of receipt of the request
- Will provide the information free of charge
- May tell the individual we will comply within 3 months of receipt of the request, where a request is complex or numerous. We will inform the individual of this within 1 month, and explain why the extension is necessary

We will not disclose information if it:

- Might cause serious harm to the physical or mental health of the pupil or another individual
- Would reveal that the child is at risk of abuse, where the disclosure of that information would not be in the child's best interests
- Is contained in adoption or parental order records
- Is given to a court in proceedings concerning the child

If the request is unfounded or excessive, we may refuse to act on it, or charge a reasonable fee which takes into account administrative costs.

A request will be deemed to be unfounded or excessive if it is repetitive, or asks for further copies of the same information.

When we refuse a request, we will tell the individual why, and tell them they have the right to complain to the ICO.

9.4 Other data protection rights of the individual

In addition to the right to make a subject access request (see above), and to receive information when we are collecting their data about how we use and process it (see section 7), individuals also have the right to:

- Withdraw their consent to processing at any time
- Ask us to rectify, erase or restrict processing of their personal data, or object to the processing of it (in certain circumstances)
- Prevent use of their personal data for direct marketing
- Challenge processing which has been justified on the basis of public interest
- Request a copy of agreements under which their personal data is transferred outside of the European Economic Area
- Object to decisions based solely on automated decision making or profiling (decisions taken with no human involvement, that might negatively affect them)
- Prevent processing that is likely to cause damage or distress
- Be notified of a data breach in certain circumstances
- Make a complaint to the ICO
- Ask for their personal data to be transferred to a third party in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable format (in certain circumstances)

Individuals should submit any request to exercise these rights to the DPO. If staff receive such a request, they must immediately forward it to the DPO.

10. Parental requests to see the educational record

Parents, or those with parental responsibility, have a legal right to free access to their child's educational record (which includes most information about a pupil) within 15 school days of receipt of a written request.

11. CCTV

We use CCTV in various locations around our school site to ensure it remains safe. We will adhere to the ICO's [code of practice](#) for the use of CCTV.

We do not need to ask individuals' permission to use CCTV, but we make it clear where individuals are being recorded. Security cameras are clearly visible and accompanied by prominent signs explaining that CCTV is in use.

Any enquiries about the CCTV system should be directed to Mr James Lowe

12. Photographs and videos

As part of our Infinite schools's activities, we may take photographs and record images of individuals during activities.

We will obtain explicit consent from parents/carers, or where appropriate from pupils aged 13 and over, for photographs and videos to be taken of pupils for communication, marketing and promotional materials.

Where we need parental consent, we will clearly explain how the photograph and/or video will be used to both the parent/carer and pupil. Where we don't need parental consent, we will clearly explain to the pupil how the photograph and/or video will be used.

Uses may include:

- Within Infinite schools premises on notice boards magazines, brochures and newsletters, etc.
- Outside of Infinite schools premises by external agencies such as professional photographers, newspapers, campaigns
- Online on Infinite school's website or social media pages

Consent can be refused or withdrawn at any time. If consent is withdrawn, we will delete the photograph or video and not distribute it further.

When using photographs and videos in this way we will not accompany them with any other personal information about the child, to ensure they cannot be identified.

See our child protection and safeguarding policy and acceptable use policy for more information on our use of photographs and videos.

13. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use in School

Infinite Schools recognises that artificial intelligence (AI), including generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, may support staff in their work. This section sets out how AI can be used safely, ethically and in line with statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE).

The aim is to ensure AI supports teaching and administration without replacing professional judgement or undermining data protection, safeguarding or intellectual property responsibilities.

13.1 Legislation and guidance

This section is based on:

Department for Education guidance: *Using AI in education settings – support materials* (2025)

DfE policy papers on generative AI in education

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018

Relevant guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) on data protection and emerging technologies

13.2 Definitions

Artificial Intelligence (AI): A system that performs tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as generating text, images or data insights.

Generative AI: A type of AI that produces new content (e.g. ChatGPT).

Approved use: Using AI for drafting content and checking accuracy, where the staff member remains responsible for the final output.

13.3 Roles and responsibilities

Headteacher/Executive Headteacher – ensures safe and ethical use of AI is embedded across the school and staff are trained appropriately.

Data Protection Officer (DPO) – advises on compliance, including data privacy impact assessments where AI tools are introduced.

All staff – responsible for:

Using AI only for permitted purposes (content drafting, fact-checking)

Not using AI to plan or produce teaching resources or lesson plans

Verifying and editing all outputs before use

Ensuring no personal or pupil-identifiable data is entered into AI systems

Reporting any concerns (e.g. inaccuracy, bias, safeguarding issues) to their line manager or DSL

13.4 AI use principles

AI use in Infinite Schools will be:

Teacher-led – AI supports, but does not replace, professional expertise

Accurate and reviewed – all outputs must be checked by staff for factual correctness, tone and curriculum alignment

Safe and compliant – no personal, sensitive or pupil data will be entered into AI systems

Ethical and legal – staff must respect copyright, intellectual property and safeguarding obligations when using AI

Transparent – the school will review AI usage regularly, and update this policy in line with DfE guidance

13.5 DfE & KCSIE 2025 Integration

Infinite Schools will ensure all AI usage complies with the latest Department for Education (DfE) guidance and Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025 updates.

AI tools must:

- Be used safely, ethically, and transparently in line with statutory safeguarding responsibilities
- Not process or store any personal, sensitive, or pupil-identifiable data without DPO approval
- Support teaching, administration, and careers guidance, but never replace professional judgement

13.6 ICO & GDPR Compliance

Infinite Schools recognises the importance of protecting personal data when using AI systems. To comply with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018:

- Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) must be completed before adopting any AI tool
- AI tools must not access pupil records, safeguarding logs, or sensitive information unless explicitly approved
- Only DPO-approved AI systems may be used where personal data is involved
- ICO guidelines on emerging technologies will be reviewed regularly to inform practice

13.7 AI Risk Management & Monitoring

To safeguard students and staff, Infinite Schools will:

- Maintain a risk register for all AI tools used in school
- Monitor outputs for potential bias, safeguarding breaches, or inaccuracies
- Require staff to verify and edit all AI-generated content before use
- Establish an annual AI compliance review led by the DPO

13.8 Staff Training & Auditing

To ensure safe and effective AI use:

- Annual training will be provided to all staff on responsible AI use and data protection
- The DPO will maintain an audit trail of AI tools used, purposes, and compliance checks
- Infinite Schools will review this policy annually, updating in line with DfE, KCSIE, and ICO guidance

14. Data protection by design and default

We will put measures in place to show that we have integrated data protection into all of our data processing activities, including:

- Appointing a suitably qualified DPO, and ensuring they have the necessary resources to fulfil their duties and maintain their expert knowledge
- Only processing personal data that is necessary for each specific purpose of processing, and always in line with the data protection principles set out in relevant data protection law (see section 6)
- Completing privacy impact assessments where the school's processing of personal data presents a high risk to rights and freedoms of individuals, and when introducing new technologies (the DPO will advise on this process)
- Integrating data protection into internal documents including this policy, any related policies and privacy notices
- Regularly training members of staff on data protection law, this policy, any related policies and any other data protection matters; we will also keep a record of attendance
- Regularly conducting reviews and audits to test our privacy measures and make sure we are compliant
- Maintaining records of our processing activities, including:
 - For the benefit of data subjects, making available the name and contact details of our school and DPO and all information we are required to share about how we use and process their personal data (via our privacy notices)
 - For all personal data that we hold, maintaining an internal record of the type of data, data subject, how and why we are using the data, any third-party recipients, how and why we are storing the data, retention periods and how we are keeping the data secure

15. Data security and storage of records

We will protect personal data and keep it safe from unauthorised or unlawful access, alteration, processing or disclosure, and against accidental or unlawful loss, destruction or damage.

In particular:

- Paper-based records and portable electronic devices, such as laptops and hard drives that contain personal data are kept under lock and key when not in use
- Papers containing confidential personal data must not be left on office and classroom desks, on staffroom tables, pinned to notice/display boards, or left anywhere else where there is general access
- Where personal information needs to be taken off site, staff must take extra care to keep it safe and not leave unattended at anytime until it has reached the intended destination where reasonable steps will be taken to keep it safe.
- Passwords that are at least 8 characters long containing letters and numbers are used to access Infinite schools's computers, laptops and other electronic devices. Staff and pupils are reminded to change their passwords at regular intervals
- Encryption software is used to protect all portable devices and removable media, such as laptops and USB devices
- Staff, pupils and governors who store personal information on their personal devices are expected to follow the same security procedures as for school-owned equipment (see our ICT policy/acceptable use agreement).
- Where we need to share personal data with a third party, we carry out due diligence and take reasonable steps to ensure it is stored securely and adequately protected (see section 8)

16. Disposal of records

Personal data that is no longer needed will be disposed of securely. Personal data that has become inaccurate or out of date will also be disposed of securely, where we cannot or do not need to rectify or update it.

For example, we will shred or incinerate paper-based records and overwrite or delete electronic files. We may also use a third party to safely dispose of records on Infinite schools's behalf. If we do so, we will require the third party to provide sufficient guarantees that it complies with data protection law.

17. Personal data breaches

Infinite schools will make all reasonable endeavours to ensure that there are no personal data breaches.

In the unlikely event of a suspected data breach, we will follow the procedure set out in the Data Breach Incident Policy.

When appropriate, we will report the data breach to the ICO within 72 hours. Such breaches may include, but are not limited to:

- A non-anonymised dataset being published on Infinite schools's website which shows the test/exam results of pupils eligible for the pupil premium
- Safeguarding information being made available to an unauthorised person
- The theft of a laptop containing non-encrypted personal data about pupils/parents

18. Training

All staff and governors are provided with data protection training as part of their induction process.

Data protection will also form part of continuing professional development, where changes to legislation, guidance or the school's processes make it necessary.

19. Monitoring arrangements

The DPO is responsible for monitoring and reviewing this policy.

This policy will be reviewed and updated if necessary when the Data Protection Bill receives royal assent and becomes law (as the Data Protection Act 2018) – if any changes are made to the bill that affect our school's practice. Otherwise, or from then on, this policy will be reviewed annually and shared with governors and the management committee.

20. Links with other policies

This data protection policy is linked to our:

- acceptable use of ICT policy
- child protection and safeguarding policy

September 2025